

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NASA-04 MC-02 T-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

GAC-01 NAS-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 NSF-04 OST-04 IO-12

RSR-01 L-03 /126 W

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R 201715 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9841

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: NASA ADMINISTRATOR'S MEETING WITH MINAEROSPACE  
HESELTINE

BEGIN SUMMARY: NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER SAW  
HESELTINE, MINAEROSPACE AND SHIPPING, MARCH 14. MEETING  
CONCERNED U. K. PARTICIPATION IN POST APOLLO, AND POSSIBLE  
LICENSING OF U. S. LAUNCHERS F MANUFACTURE IN EUROPE.  
RE POST APOLLO, HESELTINE SAID U. K. WOULD PARTICIPATE  
IF BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SINGLE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY  
AGREED BY AUGUST AND IF SATISFACTORY EUROPEAN POOLING  
OF EUROPEAN WORK ON SATELLITES COULD BE ACHIEVED.  
HESELTINE'S INTEREST IN ACQUIRING CAPACITY MANUFACTURE  
U. S. LAUNCHERS REMAINS HIGH. HESELTINE APPEARS READY  
ACCEPT U. S. CONDITIONS AND HAS AGREED TO SEND US LETTER  
SO STATING, WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON SPECIFIC ITEMS OF  
EQUIPMENT. END SUMMARY

1. FLETCHER AND FRUTKIN HAD MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR  
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AEROSPACE AND SHIPPING MICHAEL HESELTINE, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MARCH 16. J. A. HAMILTON (DEPUTY SECRETARY), J. R. STEELE (UNDER SECRETARY), GEORGE BARRY (ASSISTANT SECRETARY) AND R. A. LINGARD (PRINCIPAL) ALSO PRESENT.

2. FLETCHER OPENED CONVERSATION BY DESCRIBING HIS CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE COOPERATION ON SPACE LAB. SAID THIS WAS MAJOR MANNED SPACE PROGRAM IN '80S. U. S. HAS NO OTHER PLANS FOR MANNED SPACE WORK. ALSO, INCREASINGLY APPARENT LAB WILL HAVE INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MATERIALS IN GRAVITY FREE ENVIRONMENT AND POSSIBILITIES FOR EFFICIENT SEPARATION OF ANTIBODIES. SAID HE BELIEVED FRG AND ITALY WOULD SIGN AGREEMENT WITH ESRO BEFORE AUGUST 15 DEADLINE, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS APRIL. FRANCE WILL NOT SIGN BY THEN BECAUSE OF L3 S PROBLEM.

3. HESELTINE SAID U. K. WILL NOT SIGN BY APRIL. HE DID NOT KNOW THE FRENCH POSITION BUT NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO GET THE FRG INTO ITS LAUNCHER PROGRAM, THE FRENCH HAVE ACCEPTED NECESSITY JOIN IN POST APOLLO.

4. HESELTINE REVIEWED AT LENGTH U. K. POSITION WITH REGARD TO POST APOLLO AND EUROPEAN SPACE ORGANIZATION SAYING THAT U. K. WOULD ONLY JOIN POST APOLLO IF EUROPEANS AGREE TO ESTABLISH SINGLE SPACE AGENCY IN EUROPE. FLETCHER NOTED THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY ESRO AS AN ORGANIZATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, BY ESRO'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND FACT ESRO HAS ONLY ONE PRIME CONTRACTOR. SAID HE THOUGHT ESRO COULD FUNCTION SMOOTHLY IF IT COULD WORK WITHOUT FETTERS OF ENDLESS COMMITTEES AND PETTY REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS. HESELTINE NOTED ONE PROPOSAL IS TO MERGE ESRO AND ELDO. FRUTKIN ASKED IF THERE MIGHT NOT BE DANGER OF DRAGGING DOWN ESRO BY ADDING SOME OF THE INEFFICIENCIES OF ELDO. HESELTINE AGREED THAT ESRO WAS EFFICIENT IN MANAGING ITS PROJECTS, BUT INSISTED AGAIN THAT U. K. WOULD NOT TOLERATE INEFFICIENT EUROPEAN SPACE ORGANIZATION. ONE ARGUMENT FOR A CENTRAL AGENCY, HE SAID, IS THAT IT WOULD RATIONALIZE PRODUCTION AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND AVOID WASTEFUL NATIONAL PROGRAMS. IF

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EUROPE CANNOT REACH AGREEMENT ON A SINGLE SPACE AGENCY,

THE U. K. WILL NOT BE PART OF EUROPEAN SPACE MOVEMENT.  
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE A SPACE ORGANIZATION IN  
BEING BY AUGUST 15, BUT U. K. WILL INSIST ON AGREEMENT  
ON BASIC PRINCIPLES BY THEN, DETAILS OF WHICH CAN BE  
WORKED OUT LATER. HESELTINE CONCLUDED BY SAYING " IF  
I GET WHAT I WANT, THE U. S. WILL APPROVE."

5. FLETCHER ASKED IF THE U. K. POSITION COULD BE  
SUMMARIZED AS A COMMITMENT TO THE SINGLE AGENCY ON THE  
PART OF EUROPEAN PARTNERS MEANS A COMMITMENT TO POST  
APOLLO ON THE PART OF THE U. K. HESELTINE REPLIED THAT  
HE DID NOT NOW HAVE AUTHORITY TO SAY THAT IF THE AGENCY  
WERE SATISFACTORY, THE U. K. WOULD NECESSARILY PARTICI-

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APOLLO PROVIDED EUROPEAN AGENCY WAS ESTABLISHED AND  
INCLUDED ARRANGEMENTS TO POOL NATIONAL EFFORTS. MORE  
SPECIFICALLY, U. K. WOULD ACCEPT POST APOLLO AND MAKE  
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO JOINT EUROPEAN EFFORT PROVIDED  
IT COULD SECURE OFFSETTING AGREEMENT TO PURSUE JOINT  
DEVELOPMENT OF BRITISH SATELLITES. IN BRIEF, HESELTINE

SAID HE HAD FIXED CEILING ON FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SPACE. RESOURCES EXPENDED FOR POST APOLLO PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE UP THROUGH EUROPEAN POOLING ARRANGEMENT. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN ONCE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO ONE AGENCY, AND ONE PROGRAM, IN EUROPE WITH WHICH THE U. S. COULD NEGOTIATE AND WORK.

6. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO LAUNCHERS. HESELTINE INTRODUCED THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT THE FRENCH ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT OF LAUNCHERS IS BASED ON A SIMPLE PROPOSITION, THAT EUROPE CANNOT COUNT ON EITHER THE U. S. OR U. S. S. R. TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LAUNCH ASSISTANCE UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE U. K. AGREES THAT EUROPE MUST NOT BE PUT IN THE POSITION IN WHICH LAUNCH ASSISTANCE CAN BE SHUT OFF, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT IT BELIEVES THAT DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN LAUNCHER IS NOT NECESSARY, TOO EXPENSIVE AND WOULD REQUIRE EUROPE TO REDEVELOP OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY WITH CONSEQUENTIAL WASTE OF RESOURCES. THE U. K. WOULD LIKE TO BUILD LAUNCHERS UNDER LICENSE IN EUROPE BUT THE FRENCH DO NOT ACCEPT ALL THE CONDITIONS A LICENSING AGREEMENT WOULD ENTAIL. HESELTINE SAID THIS POSED NO PROBLEM FOR HIM SINCE HE WOULD FEEL FREE TO INTERPRET THE CONDITIONS SURROUNDING AN AGREEMENT TO LICENSE THE PRODUCTION OF LAUNCHERS IN EUROPE. IN THE END, HE SAID, EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON GOOD AND CLOSE EUROPEAN AND U. S. RELATIONS. IF THIS WERE SO, RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. IF RELATIONS WERE NOT GOOD, NO AMOUNT OF RESTRICTIONS WOULD STOP EUROPE FROM DOING WHAT IT WISHED WITH LAUNCHERS OVER WHICH IT HAD PHYSICAL CONTROL.

7. WITH REGARD TO U. S. CONDITIONS, WE REPEATED U. S. POSITION OUTLINED IN STATE 42979, WHICH WE HAD GIVEN TO HESELTINE'S OFFICE ORALLY THE DAY BEFORE AND AGREED TO PROVIDE A REPLY TO HESELTIS QUESTIONS IN WRITING IN THE EXPECTATION THAT ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS HE MIGHT HAVE WOULD BE SENT TO US FOR REPLY BY THE DEPARTMENT.

8. HESELTINE THEN LEFT FOR ANOTHER APPOINTMENT, BUT THE DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON HESELTINE'S INTEREST IN THOR- DELTA. FLETCHER SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY THOR- DELTA SHOULD NOT BE MANUFACTURED IN EUROPE WITHOUT A "BLACK BOX," THE TECHNOLOGY OF WHICH WOULD NOT BE CONVEYED TO THE EUROPEANS. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION FOLLOWED REGARDING THE NATURE OF "BLACK BOXES" WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF THOR- DELTAS,

THE ESSENCE OF WHICH WAS THAT WHILE SOME COMPONENTS  
MIGHT INITIALLY BE RESTRICTED, EUROPEANS COULD AND  
PROBABLY WOULD DEVELOP THEIR OWN SUBSTITUTES.

9. HAMILTON SUMMARIZED THIS PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION  
BY EMPHASIZING THAT IF THE U. K. COULD REACH ARRANGEMENT  
WITH THE U. S. TO MANUFACTURE THOR- DELTA, THEREBY REDUCING  
DEPENDENCY ON OTHER FORMS OF LAUNCH ASSISTANCE FROM THE  
U. S., IT WOULD BE EASIER TO SECURE AGREEMENT TO  
PARTICIPATE IN POST APOLLO.  
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10. ABOVE DRAFTED AFTER DEPARTURE OF FLETCHER AND  
FRUTKIN AND NOT SEEN BY THEM.

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